AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A method for the catalytic reduction of NO_x in an NO_x containing gas by contacting said NO_x containing gas with methane in the presence of a catalyst comprising a zeolite loaded with palladium and a metal selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide and a combination thereof, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms, and wherein said zeolite is loaded with 0.02 to 2% by weight of palladium.

23. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof and optionally other metals after having been loaded with palladium by ion exchange.

24. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite comprises a zeolite of the class of FAU, MOR, BEA, EMT, CON, BOG or ITQ-7.

25. (cancelled)

26. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof by ion exchange or incipient wetness techniques.

27. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

28. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 26, wherein the zeolite comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

29. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite is further loaded with one or more metals from groups IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Vb, VIb, VIIb, and VIII of the periodic system.

30. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the gas comprises oxygen, water or a combination thereof.

31. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the gas comprises carbon monoxide.

32. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the reaction temperature is between 300°C and 600°C.

33. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the NO_x/methane ratio is between 0.02 and 2.

34. (currently amended) ~~The method according to Claim 22,~~ A method for the catalytic reduction of NO_x in an NO_x containing gas by contacting said NO_x containing gas with methane in the presence of a catalyst comprising a zeolite loaded with palladium and a metal selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide and a combination thereof, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms, and wherein an additional catalyst is used for the removal of N_2O.

35. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 34, wherein the additional catalyst for the removal of N_2O is an iron-containing zeolite, a promoted iron-containing zeolite or a combination thereof.

36. (currently amended) ~~The method according to Claim 22,~~ A method for the catalytic reduction of NO_x in an NO_x containing gas by contacting said NO_x containing gas with methane in the presence of a catalyst comprising a zeolite loaded with palladium and a metal selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide and a combination thereof, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms, and wherein an additional catalyst is used for the removal of methane.

37. (currently amended) A method for the catalytic reduction of NO_x in an NO_x containing gas by contacting said NO_x containing gas with methane in the presence of a catalyst comprising a zeolite loaded with palladium and a metal selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide and a combination thereof, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof by physically mixing the zeolite with salts or oxides of said metals, and further wherein an additional catalyst is used for the removal of N_2O.

38. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 37, wherein the zeolite is loaded with 0.01 to 50% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

39. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 37, wherein the zeolite is further loaded with one or more metals from groups IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Vb, VIb, VIIb, and VIII of the periodic system.

40. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 37, wherein the gas comprises oxygen, water or a combination thereof.

41. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 37, wherein the gas comprises carbon monoxide.

42. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 37, wherein the reaction temperature is between 300°C and 600°C.

43. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 37, wherein the NO_x/methane ratio is between 0.02 and 2.

44. (cancelled)

45. (currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~44~~ 37, wherein the additional catalyst for the removal of N_2O is

an iron-containing zeolite, a promoted iron-containing zeolite or a combination thereof.

46. (currently amended) ~~The method according to Claim 37,~~ A method for the catalytic reduction of NO_x in an NO_x containing gas by contacting said NO_x containing gas with methane in the presence of a catalyst comprising a zeolite loaded with palladium and a metal selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide and a combination thereof, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof by physically mixing the zeolite with salts or oxides of said metals, and further wherein an additional catalyst is used for the removal of methane.

47. (currently amended) A catalyst comprising a zeolite loaded with palladium and a metal selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide and a combination thereof, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms, wherein the palladium in the zeolite is wholly or partially coordinated as ion by the zeolite, and wherein said zeolite is loaded with 0.02 to 2% by weight of palladium.

48. (previously presented) The catalyst according to Claim 47, having an infra-red sensitive zeolite lattice vibration visible at about 950 cm^{-1}.

49. (previously presented) The catalyst according to Claim 47, wherein the zeolite comprises a zeolite of the class of FAU, MOR, BEA, EMT, CON, BOG or ITQ-7.

50. (cancelled)

51. (previously presented) The catalyst according to Claim 47, wherein the zeolite comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

52. (previously presented) The catalyst according to Claim 47, wherein the zeolite is further loaded with one or more metals from groups IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Vb, VIb, VIIb, and VIII of the periodic system.

53. (previously presented) A method for the preparation of a zeolite loaded with palladium and a metal selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide and a combination thereof, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a

lanthanide or a combination thereof and optionally other metals after having been loaded with palladium by ion exchange.

54. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 53, wherein the zeolite comprises a zeolite of the class of FAU, MOR, BEA, EMT, CON, BOG or ITQ-7.

55. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 53, wherein the zeolite is loaded with 0.02 to 2% by weight of palladium.

56. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 53, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof by ion exchange or incipient wetness techniques.

57. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 53, wherein the zeolite comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

58. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 56, wherein the zeolite comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

59. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 53, wherein the zeolite, after having been loaded with palladium by ion exchange, the zeolite is loaded with one or more metals from groups IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Vb, VIb, VIIb, and VIII of the periodic system, before, at the same time or after the introduction of scandium, yttrium or a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

60. (currently amended) ~~The catalyst according to claim 22, wherein the metal is yttrium~~ A method for the catalytic reduction of NO_x in an NO_x containing gas by contacting said NO_x containing gas with methane in the presence of a catalyst comprising a zeolite loaded with palladium and yttrium, wherein said zeolite is based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms.

61. (currently amended) ~~The catalyst according to claim 37, wherein the metal is yttrium~~ A method for the catalytic reduction of NO_x in an NO_x containing gas by contacting said NO_x containing gas with methane in the presence of a catalyst comprising a zeolite loaded with palladium and yttrium, wherein said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms, and said zeolite is loaded with yttrium by physically mixing the zeolite with salts or oxides of yttrium.

62. (currently amended) ~~The catalyst according to claim 47, wherein the metal is yttrium~~ A catalyst comprising a zeolite loaded with palladium and yttrium, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms, wherein the palladium in the zeolite is wholly or partially coordinated as ion by the zeolite.

63. (currently amended) The ~~catalyst~~ method according to claim 53, wherein the metal is yttrium.